

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-12

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EB-11 RSR-01 /106 W

----- 013697

R 201335Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL IZMIR

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO SECSTATE WEASHDC 991

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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E.O. 11653C N/A TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: IZMIR'S MAYOR VIEWS POLITICAL SITUATION

1. SUMMARY: IN WIDE-RANGING CONVERSATION JULY 20 IZMIR MAYOR AND LOCAL JP STRONG MAN OSMAN KIBAR PREDICTED HE WOULD WIN RE-ELECTION EASILY, THAT JP WOULD WIN GENERAL ELECTION AND THAT RPP WOULD FALL SHORT OF ITS TRADITIONAL ONE-THIRD SHARE OF VOTE IN AEGEAN. KIBAR ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE JP NOT WIN OVERWHELMING VICTORY AND THUS GENERATE UNITED OPPOSITION OR POSSIBLE MILITARY INTERVENTION. KIBAR

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REFUSED TO COMMENT ON WHEN OR BY WHOM IZMIR GOVERNORSHIP MIGHT BE FILLED. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING CALL BY CONSUL GENERAL FOR PURPOSE OF INTRODUCING RECENTLY ARRIVED POLOFF, IZMIR'S VOLUBLE MAYOR OSMAN KIBAR, WITH SLIGHT PRODDING, MADE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS. PEOPLE OF IZMIR ARE NOT VERY INTERESTED IN OCTOBER GENERAL ELECTION; THEIR MINDS ARE MADE UP, AND THEY ARE NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TO NORMAL CAMPAIGN TACTICS. ELECTORATE MUCH MORE

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SOPHISTICATED AND DEMANDING THAN IT WAS FOUR YEARS

AGO. ALTHOUGH THESE CONDITIONS MAKE PRE-ELECTION SITUATION SLIGHTLY MORE DIFFICULT TO INTERPRET, KIBAR WHO SPENDS A COUPLE OF HOURS EACH MORNING WANDERING AROUND HIS CONSTITUENCY TALKING TO PEOPLE, FEELS CONFIDENT HE WILL BE RE-ELECTED. IN GENERAL ELECTION HE BELIEVES PEOPLE WILL GIVE THEIR SUPPORT TO "THE MAN WHO STOOD UP TO THE ARMED FORCES", I.E. DEMIREL.

3. KIBAR EXPRESSED HOPE THAT JP NOT WIN MORE THAN 260-270 SEATS IN GENERAL ELECTION. WITH THIS NUMBER

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HE BELIEVES JP COULD GOVERN EFFECTIVELY, BUT IF JP SHOULD WIN 300 SEATS HE FEARS NOT ONLY THAT ALL OTHER PARTIES WOULD UNITE IN OPPOSITION TO JP BUT ALSO THAT MILITARY WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO INTERVENE.

4. KIBAR AGREED RPP MAKING SPECIAL EFFORT IN AEGEAN AREA BUT PREDICTED RPP WOULD NOT EVEN BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN ITS TRADITIONAL ONE-THIRD SHARE OF AEGEAN VOTE. KIBAR SAID RPP MAKING STRONG PITCH FOR YOUNGER VOTERS, BUT THAT YOUTH OF IZMIR MORE SETTLED AND RATIONAL THAN THAT OF ANKARA AND ISTANBUL AND WOULD THEREFORE NOT BE RESPONSIVE TO RPP EFFORTS.

5. KIBAR REFUSED TO COMMENT ON WHEN OR BY WHOM IZMIR GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE FILLED. HE ALSO CLAIMED HE HAD NOT AND DID NOT INTEND TO MENTION ANY POSSIBLE CANDIDATES TO ANKARA. WE TAKE THIS WITH A KING-SIZE GRAIN OF SALT.

6. KIBAR, WHO WAS TREATED LAST YEAR IN LONDON FOR THROAT CANCER, APPEARED HEARTY. HIS VOICE SEEMED A BIT RUSTY, BUT HE CLAIMED THAT DURING A CHECK-UP IN LONDON LAST WEEK DOCTORS PRONOUNCED HIM WELL.

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7 COMMENT: KIBAR'S VIEWS ON THE ELECTIONS WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PREDICATABLE. IT SEEMED TO US HOWEVER THAT HE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY ELECTORATE'S SEEMING INDIFFERENCE ABOUT OCTOBER ELECTION AND NOT SO CONFIDENT OF OUTCOME AS HE ALLEGES. HIS PREDICTION THAT RPP WILL LOSE RATHER THAN GAIN STRENGTH IN AEGEAN HAD PARTICULARLY HOLLOW RING. MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE HERE DURING UPCOMING CAMPAIGN WILL PROBABLY BE RAPIDLY RISING COST OF LIVING. KIBAR NATURALLY

CLAIMS PEOPLE WILL BLAME ARMED FORCES AND NOT JP,
BUT HE SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVE IN EXPLAINING JP NOT REALLY
IN POWER NOW AND SHOULD NOT THEREFORE BE BLAMED FOR
RISING PRICES. ONE KEY ELEMENT IN ELECTION OUTCOME
HERE MAY WELL BE HOW EFFECTIVELY JP CAN AVOID
ASSOCIATION WITH COST OF LIVING RISE.

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